(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The works for strengthening and extension of runway with allied works have been awarded on 4th March, 2005.

Decline in international fares

2195. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to Government's decision to open up the global skies by allowing competition from private airlines and by liberalising air connectivity with outside world international airfares from India have sharply comedown;

(b) if so, how far the international air fares have come down during 2004-2005, with respect to Al, the national carriers; and

(c) how it is likely to affect Air India's and Indian Airlines' profitability and viability indicating comparative profit and loss figures of Al and IA during 2002-2003,2003-2004 and 2004-2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) With increase in international connectivity to/from India and greater competition between airlines, fare levels on international sectors have come down sharply, which has benefited the passengers travelling to/from India on international routes. Air India has aiso reduced its fares by 10 per cent to 20 per cent on different routes to remain competitive.

(c) In order to achieve profitability/viability both Air India and Indian Airlines would need to offer competitive fares and reduce costs. The profit/loss figures for Air India/Indian Airlines are as follows:

	Air India (Rs. Crore)	Indian Airlines (Rs. Crore)
2002-2003	133.86	-192.56 (loss)
2003-2004	92.33	44.17

Airport in Ludhiana

2196. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: